

berthed at the madras Port in January, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to keep a watch on the movements of these ships near Indian coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). U.S.S. Robert E. Ready visited the port of madras from 6th to 8th January, 1992 on a goodwill visit. Whether or not the vessel forms part of the Seventh fleet not known. Surface maintained as a standard function of Indian Navy and the Cost Guard to enable the monitoring of all sea borne traffic within the maritime Zones.

Passenger ship service between Mangalore - Bombay

4948. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a passenger ship service between Mangalore and Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

C & AG Report against Coffee Board.

4949. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Government on the C & AG report against Coffee Board regarding coffee curing works; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that such irregularities do not happen in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Necessary action has been initiated in consultation with the Coffee Board on the C & AG report on the review of the functioning of Coffee Board, which *inter-alia* includes curing of coffee also. As a interim measure, the following action has been taken by the Coffee Board to improve control over Curing Works;

(i) A Scheme for 100% stock verification in the Curing Works has been taken up during 1991-92 to verify shortage of coffee and/or misappropriation of coffee.

(ii) the entire system of opening of LCs for payment to growers has been streamlined and the returns from the Curing Works are being watched and analysed to ensure that there is no mis-use of funds;

(iii) Computerisation of the data on stocks, issuing of LCs etc., as well as the returns of the curing Works is planned for quicker and better inventory management;

(iv) Responsibility has been placed on attached officials for periodic verification of stocks as well as proper utilisation of funds by the Curing Works; and

(v) The Coffee Board has appointed a Sub-committee to inquire into the whole question of utilisation of funds by Curing Works in the past and also to look into instances of mis-use of funds not only to initiate action against the Curing Works but also to evolve and implement a fool-proof